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DOGANA publishes quarterly newsletters. We encourage all Dowites to please submit their articles for the publication throughout the year. We are also seeking class news, meeting information or any news that you would like to share with other Dowites. Articles to be submitted by email to linking-dow@gmail.com, in Word document, or plain email format will be acceptable. The Editor reserves the right to edit all the submitted material.

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DowLink is a Quarterly Newsletter, a publication of Dow Graduate Association of North America. The newsletter is dedicated to providing useful information to the members and the readers in general. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of either the editor or the association.

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EDITORIAL

Tariq J. Alam, M.D.

This year the official theme of DOGANA is “Women of Dow.” Although Dow Medical College has always been a co-educational institution, the women of Dow have excelled and many have attained international fame and accolades for their professional, humanitarian and social contributions. From front line medical staff to healthcare managers and administrators, the women graduates of Dow Medical College have made their own niche and name in history.

There was a time when there was a gender quota system at Dow. Men were the majority of students and very few numbers of women would get admission. This was based on the notion that many women would ‘leave’ medicine as a career and get settled as wives and mothers. The theory was that men were the bread earners and they go on to pursue higher education and practice medicine.

Currently based on the notion of gender equality, general merit prevails at Dow Medical College. This has actually seen a paradigm shift in the demographics of students admitted to Dow every year. More and more women are getting admission leaving male students in minority. Much to the contrary of critics, women graduates have pursued higher education, excelled in programs such as M.Phil and PhDs and also acquired subspecialty training not just from Pakistan but from western countries. Even today, many women hold the fort when it comes to dominance in basic medical science specialties.

In recent years, more women graduates of Dow Medical College have attained postgraduate training positions in the US and UK. From residencies in neurosurgery to gastroenterology and oncology, women graduates of Dow have proved their mettle time and again even when it has become difficult to attain residency positions.

DOGANA realizes that gender equality and women empowerment are the keys to the development of any society. Those societies that have suppressed and shunned their women have wasted generations. Those societies that have empowered women and concentrated on their education and health have ultimately prospered and progressed. Educating women is like educating a generation. Nothing has changed the destiny of nations other than an educated and an informed workforce that has contributed to the upliftment of society and removing it from the jaws of apathy.

Every year is a year of celebration of the achievements of the women of Dow. They have gone on to become leaders and inspired to build more leaders thus playing their role in human resource development.

Long live DOW!

Long live DOGANA!

The editor is a 2005 graduate of Dow Medical College and practices neurology in St. Louis, MO